



SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

BULLETIN

WINTER 1982

EAGLES-EAGLES-EAGLES

Again the St. Louis Audubon Society has been invited to participate in the National Mississippi Valley Winter Bald Eagle Count. This will be our 17th year of participation.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16th is the date and an area from Winfield Dam north to Saverton will be covered.

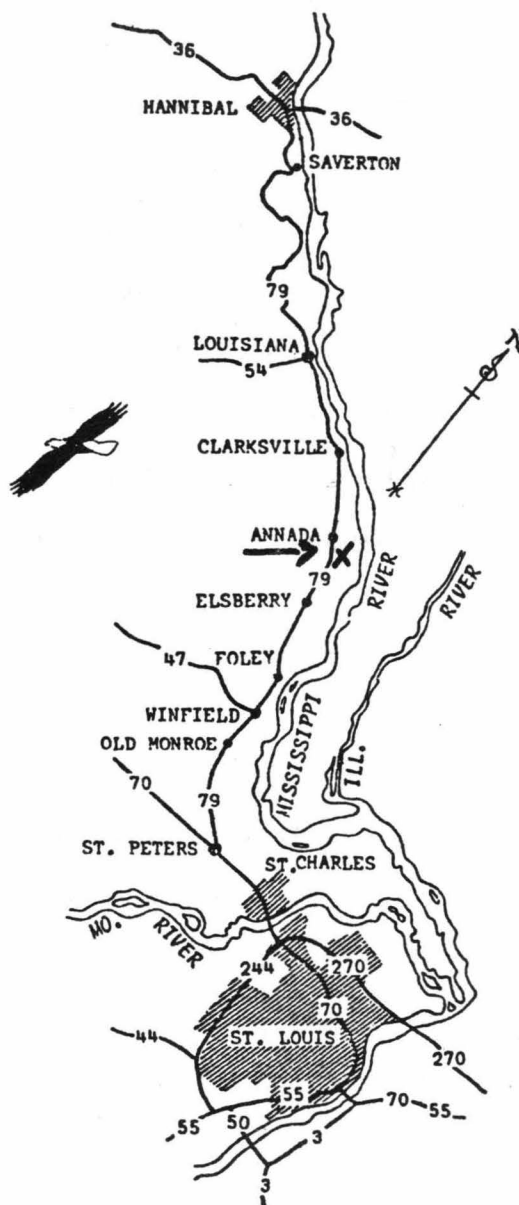
Last year over 300 people joined the count. For awhile it looked like more eagle watchers than eagles. However, everyone saw many, many eagles.

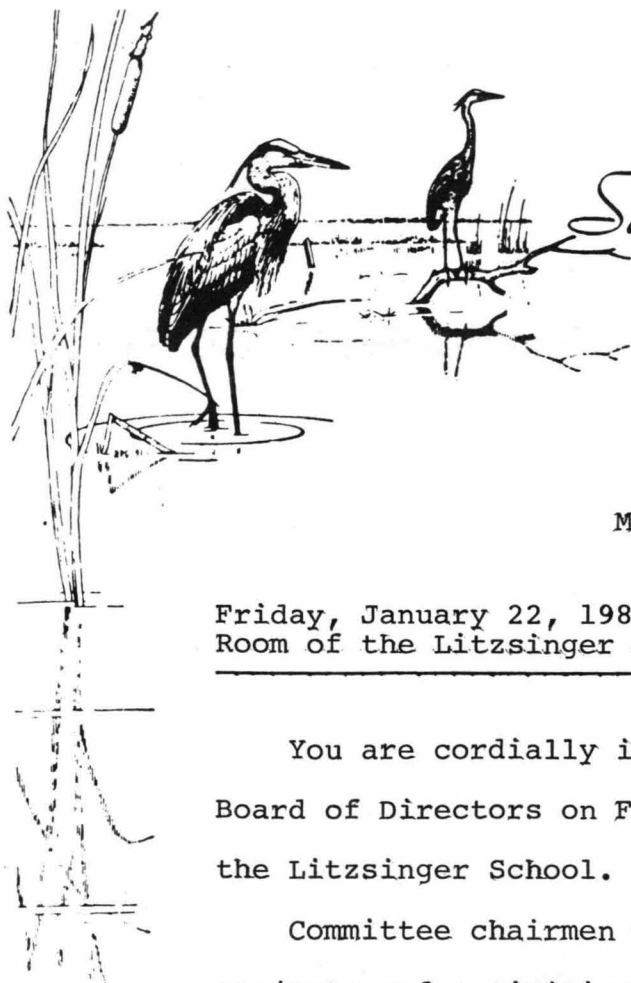
Again we will have the able leadership of McCune Dudley of Louisiana and other experienced leaders in the field of ornithology. They will map the area and assign locations to be covered.

Meet at Clarence Cannon Refuge at 8:30 a.m. Follow Interstate 70 to St. Peters, then north on #79 to Annada, turn right and follow signs. (SEE MAP). This is the best meeting place in the area.

The annual eagle count is a very special project, and one for the inexperienced as well as the seasoned birder. Children are welcome. Dress warmly, bring sack lunch and binoculars.

For further information call:
Connie Hath, 965-8642





Saint Louis Audubon Society

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

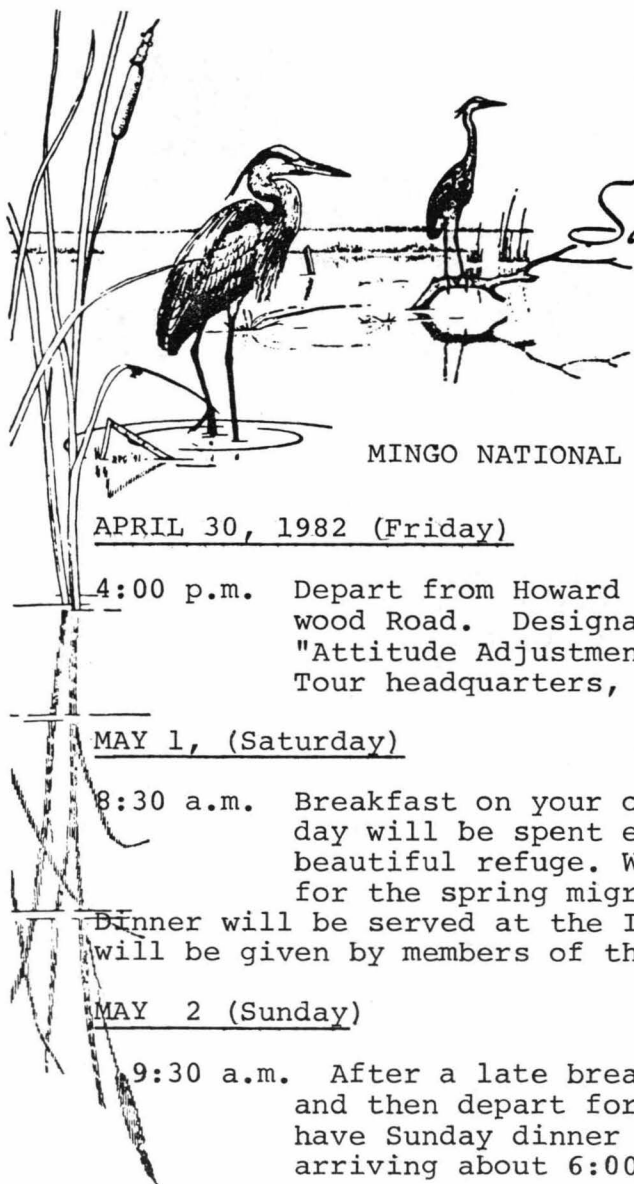
Friday, January 22, 1982, at 8:00 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room of the Litzsinger School, Litzsinger Road and Lindbergh

You are cordially invited to meet with the Officers and Board of Directors on Friday, January 22 at 8:00 p.m., at the Litzsinger School.

Committee chairmen will be present and give reports on projects and activities of the Society. This is your opportunity to express your opinions on these projects and activities. Your ideas are needed to formulate the development of the Society. Jack Van Benthuyzen, president of the Society, will chair the business meeting.

Following the meeting a program will be presented by the Photography Section of the St. Louis Audubon Society. This is an opportunity to see the excellent work of the members of this Section of the Society. The program will be under the direction of Walter Liddell, Board Member and former president of the Photography Section.

You are most welcome and urged to attend this general membership meeting. The Litzsinger School is a fine central location and parking is good. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.



Saint Louis Audubon Society

CONNIE HATH, *Executive Director*
2109 BRIARGATE LANE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63122

MINGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TOUR

APRIL 30, 1982 (Friday)

4:00 p.m. Depart from Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, 1200 South Kirkwood Road. Designated area for car parking. Following our "Attitude Adjustment Hour" we will have dinner enroute to Tour headquarters, Holiday Inn at Poplar Bluff.

MAY 1, (Saturday)

8:30 a.m. Breakfast on your own, then board the bus for Mingo. This day will be spent exploring the sights and sounds of this beautiful refuge. We are in the RIGHT SPOT at the RIGHT TIME for the spring migration and the bloom of hundreds of flowers. Dinner will be served at the Inn following our Happy Hour and a program will be given by members of the Mingo Refuge staff.

MAY 2 (Sunday)

9:30 a.m. After a late breakfast we will visit another area of Mingo and then depart for home via Ste. Genevieve. There we will have Sunday dinner at the Audubon Hotel. Then on to St. Louis arriving about 6:00 p.m.

This relaxing educational and fun tour is for the novice as well as the seasoned nature buff. Limited to 40 so send in reservations now! The cost of the tour covers transportation, lodging and all meals except the breakfast meals. This is double occupancy and covers a \$10 donation to the Audubon Society.

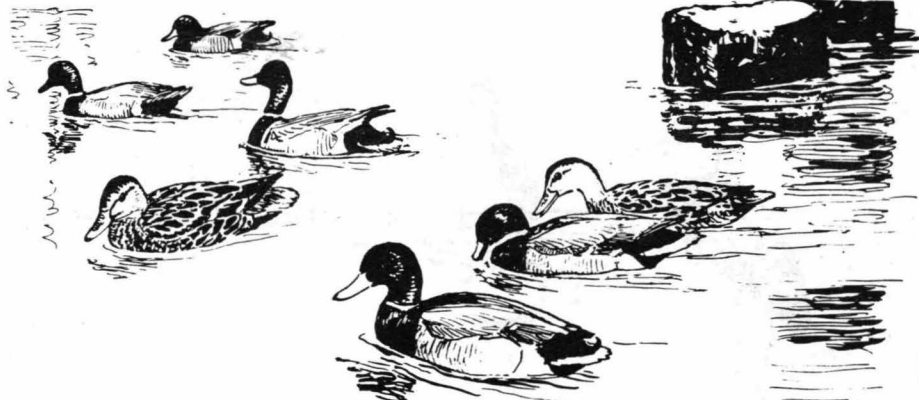
RESERVATION BLANK....MAIL TO; St. Louis Audubon Society
2109 Briargate Lane, St. Louis, MO. 63122

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF PERSONS @ \$110.00 _____

CHECK ENCLOSED: \$ _____



MINGO -- MISSOURI EVERGLADES

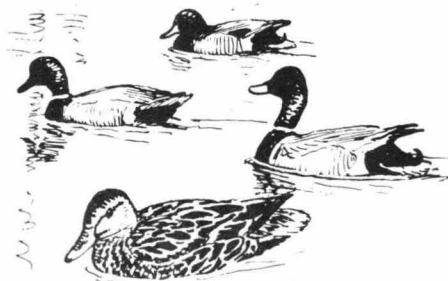
by James Mulligan, S.J.

A rocky eminence looking east from the worndown western escarpment of the Ozarks, overlooking the dark and feebly flowing water of the Black Mingo and Monopoly Lake beyond is the best summary of the experience of Mingo Wildlife Refuge. Not far from Puxico in southeast Missouri, you look from here a half mile across to Crowley's Ridge. Beneath is a lotus-covered lake, swamp and lowland hardwood forest. It originated on an angry day 18,000 years ago when the Mississippi River which flowed here turned its channel eastward as the earth quaked. The rumble left a basin between the Castor and the St. Francis rivers which became the northern limit of southern hardwood swamp forest, a modest rival of the Florida Everglades.

From this prominence in the afternoon, with the sun behind them, the Indians watched the daily moods and seasons change, but unlike the Seminoles of Florida, they have not survived to tell us the uses of the stone tools we find around here. The lake fills in wet times and drains in drier times, a condition required for the seeding of the bald cypress and reminiscent of slowly draining Lake Okeechobee. This creates the Everglades, originally called "Riverglades". Here a rich and distinctive ecosystem is built on a substrate of swampy soil, warmth and seasonal abundance of fresh water.

There is no way to be sure, however, that the way we see Mingo today is the way it was a hundred years ago, since samples of this system have mostly been destroyed. Congress has declared a third of Mingo as Wilderness.

In the early part of the last century, there were millions of acres of lowland hardwood forest and swamp through the southern states from Missouri to Florida. Since then it has nearly all been logged, drained, filled, and ploughed for crops, highways and homes. Mingo has been true to its Indian name, meaning stealthy or treacherous. In its case one of the biggest drainage operations in history was foiled in its attempt to convert this swamp to farmland. In the early 1900's steam powered band saws lumbered out the majestic cypress, oak, tupelo, and other hardwoods, leaving the nude marshy land to be ditched with huge floating steam shovels, in what proved to be a futile effort to drain Monopoly Lake. During the Depression the Drainage District went bankrupt and left the useless area to roaming cattle and hogs in those desolate Thirties.



The beginning of Mingo's return came with the acquisition in the forties by federal and state agencies of about thirty thousand acres surrounding Monopoly Lake. The refuge has largely been managed to promote the return of migratory waterfowl, whose populations were seriously reduced in the thirties, but this is another case in which the promotion of the interests of hunters has served the cause of the preservation of natural areas and wildlife in general. Since then the swamp has made a steady comeback toward its former state, and is now recognized as a unique and precious example of tupelo-cypress hardwood swamp

Mingo Wildlife Refuge includes fourteen national and state champion trees, a profusion of plants and animals found nowhere else in the state, and is known for its reptiles, deer, bobcat, eagles, osprey and wildflowers. College and university groups keep coming back, and the number of visitors has grown from a few thousand each year in the fifties to hundreds of thousands in the last few years.

A quarter million ducks and geese are harbored here each winter, the Boardwalk is ideal for the migratory birds, and the Black Mingo River is a great place to get lost amid the springtime rituals of many forms. No more need be said of this beautiful remnant of former glory in south-east Missouri, which has been saved by the refusal of Mingo to be drained, and by the interest and determination of men and women of great vision. It awaits there patiently, a hundred and sixty miles from St. Louis

There is no better time to visit the Mingo Wildlife Refuge than at the dates of the St. Louis Audubon Society tour -- April 30th to May 2nd. This will be the migration season, and the peak of wildflower season. Plan to take a little time from a busy city life and enjoy the simple yet complex beauty of the Missouri Everglades - Mingo National Wildlife Refuge.



"Invite Birds to Your Home" is the title of a series of four full-color booklets issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil and Conservation Service.

Each booklet covers one of the four major regions, and describes general aspects of both plant and bird life. It discusses what birds need and suggests plantings that will help you attract birds to your home.

To obtain a free copy, specify your region (northeast, southeast, northwest or midwest) and send your request to Information and Publications, Soil Conservation Service, USDA, PO Box 2890, Washington, D.C. 20013.

FINDING ANSWERS TO THE WHATS, WHENS AND WHYS OF ORNITHOLOGY

by Barbara Perry Lawton

When it comes to bird-watching, botanizing or any of the other pastimes that fall within natural history, there are two extremes and many gradations in between. First of all, there are the "gun notchers" who are most concerned with identifying the greatest number of species in the greatest number of places.

The gun notchers are invaluable for providing a census of species and their territories. In the case of plants, obviously this business of territories is not such a fleeting consideration as it is with migrators such as birds and, to a lesser degree, mammals, fish reptiles and other animals.

At the other end, 180 degrees from the gun notchers are the "ruminators," those who sit firmly in one spot, intent on learning as much as they can about those plants and animals that are in or pass by that particular place.

In this group are many of the behaviorists studying how individual plants and animals interact with their environments, how they react to stresses and how they are able to not only survive but multiply under both adverse and good conditions.

Most natural-history buffs fall somewhere in between these two extremes, sometimes loving the chase and sometimes enjoying the more sedentary studies.

Now, there are plenty of excellent field guides that will help us educate the gun-notcher side of our psyches -- but where, oh where are good resources to help the ruminant side of our personalities. One has to search far beyond local bookstores to find information on the habits and behavior of animals and plants. In fact, when you begin to search for behavioral information, you will find that, even in this technological age of great advancement in the sciences, much is not known about even some of our more common species.

Smithsonian Series for Birders

Birders can find lots of good behavioral material in the comparatively obscure (and out of print) series published by the National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, scientific publications that were first published in 1875 and are known simply as "Bulletins."

These publications include monographs of large zoological groups and many are devoted to birds. By the time that Bulletin 196, "Life Histories of North American Thrushes, Kinglets, and Their Allies" by Arthur Cleveland Bent was printed in 1949, there were 16 other Bulletins on the life histories of North American birds, including

diving birds, wild fowl, shore birds, birds of prey, woodpeckers, cuckoos, flycatchers, jays, nuthatches and many others.

Following are some of the observations gleaned from Bent's monograph on the Eastern robin, one of the best known of all North American birds.

Eastern Robin (Turdus migratorius migratorius)

Largest thrush in North America, the robin was given its name by English colonists because of its similarity in coloring to their robin redbreast, an unrelated bird.

H.C. Kyllingstad from Mountain Village, Alaska "Robins are fairly common in the willow and alder thickets along the Yukon and its branches...most frequently it nests away from the village as the native children like robin eggs to eat...robins are very suspicious of my banding traps...not the confiding creature that it is in the States."

A. C. Bent from Massachusetts: "As the robins move northward, they follow very closely the advance of the average daily temperature of 37 degrees...this day's observation (March 15, 1936) is characteristic of early spring robin flight...not spectacular, of the great gatherings of the South have thinned out...only small flocks of wild, wary male birds, which wander restlessly about the country...not in song at this season...they are comparatively silent, expressing themselves only in nervous exclamations.

Early in April we note a sudden, marked change in the behavior of robins...now in the settled districts of the town...tamer than the first migrants and act as if they were our local birds returned to last year's homes.

"The arrival of the female birds at this time precipitates a period of noisy activity...lawns and dooryards become the scene of countless combats and shrieking pursuits...sometimes two robins dash past us, one bird following the other, a hand's breadth apart, sweeping along not far above the ground at a speed so reckless, with lightninglike twists and turns, that collision seems inevitable...so rapidly that we cannot be sure of their respective sex, and we are left in doubt whether the pursuits are amatory or hostile...only two birds engage in (these pursuits) and the flights are maintained for a long distance.

"At this season there are still only fitful singing, chiefly in the morning, but all day long we hear the long, gigling laugh, he-he-he, and the scream of attack...the ground is softening now...earthworms, near the surface, are available as food for the next generation."

John Burroughs (1894): "In the latter half of April we pass through what I call the 'robin racket' -- trains of three or four birds rushing pell-mell over the lawn and fetching up in a tree or bush, or occasionally upon the ground, all piping and screaming at

the tops of their voices, but whether in mirth or anger it is hard to tell. The nucleus of the train is a female. One cannot see that the males in pursuit of her are rivals; it seems rather as if they had united to hustle her out of the place."

Audubon (1841): "During the pairing season, the male pays his addresses to the female of his choice, frequently on the ground, and with a fevor evincing the strongest attachment with his tail fully spread, his wings shaking, and his throat inflated, running over the grass and brushing it, as it were, until he has neared his mate, when he moves around her several times without rising from the ground."

Bent: "In response to the change in conditions the robin has not only adopted many man-made structures as a site for its nest, but has also accepted man as a neighbor, breeding freely even in large cities in an environment completely changed from that of long ago...probably many times as many robins breeding in the United States as there were in Colonial days."

This small sample from the National Museum Bulletins was written years ago, yet the information is appropriate for today's birder. The Bulletins help "tune" our eyes for better observation of details in behavior, studies where the words "never" and "always" are very dangerous to use.

VISITING BIRDERS

by: J. Marshall Magner

There has never been a doubt in my mind that birders are the greatest people in the world! I have been treated so well and led to so many new birds by bird watchers in many parts of the world that every time I have an opportunity I attempt to reciprocate.

Last August Connie Hath asked if I would host an Englishman for one day of birding. True to my expectations, as soon as I had picked up Jack Thompson at 7 a.m., November 3, at Stouffer's Riverfront Towers, I knew I had another winner!

Jack is Membership Secretary of the Manchester, England, Ornithological Society and one of those responsible for "The Greater Manchester (the Systematic List) Bird Report". It is wonderful to take a visitor from afar and share their pleasure in seeing a bluejay or tufted titmouse for the first time.

If you have a chance to take a visitor to St. Louis birding to our favorite areas, do it. You'll like it!

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The St. Louis Audubon Society will again sponsor scholarships for the Audubon Summer Camps in 1982. To obtain information and an application form, write to Ed Ortleb, Scholarship Chairman, 5663 Pernod Avenue, St. Louis, MO. 63139.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Imagine students in a classroom listening in rapt attention to their teachers share with them the wonders of nature. The teachers speak with a newfound enthusiasm because they have attended an Audubon Summer Camp.

Each year this same scene is repeated in four or five classrooms in the St. Louis area due to the scholarship program sponsored by the St. Louis Audubon Society. We believe this is one of the most meritorious projects that your membership dollars support.

However, with the rising costs of the Summer Camps and of the other projects supported by our society, we find that our 1981-82 budget will allow only three (3) scholarships to be awarded next summer.

Because we believe so strongly in this educational effort, we are asking for contributions to a Scholarship Fund. All contributions so designated will be used by the St. Louis Audubon Society to provide for an additional one or two scholarships.

Please send your contributions to the St. Louis Audubon Society, 2109 Briargate Lane, St. Louis, Missouri 63122.

LETTERS FROM 1981 WINNERS

"To attend Audubon Camp Island of Maine is to make an pilgrimage to the Mother church. Hog Island, the site of the first Audubon Camp, was rescued from logging operations early in the century and carefully preserved for generations to savor.

A myriad of sights and sounds are preceived as the New England sea coast bares its many moods and mysteries for naturalists, inspiring each one to go back and spread the ecological gospel taught here.

Glimpses emblazoned on my memory are...the sleek inquisitive face of the harbor seal; comical puffins, rocking on white-capped waves; the pristine fern drenched spruce forests; a gawky heron, about to fledge; jagged rock ledges, garnished with Irish moss; lobster fishermen laboring in the gray dawn; the grace rolls of the minkie whale; the blaze of color of a parula warbler. Nature intertwined, parades her vast array, delighting the soul of a visitor to this unspoiled harbor of Muscongus bay.

Every elected official who would compromise nature for 'progress' should be required to experience this splendid example of nature in balance, undisturbed by man."

Mrs. Carolyn Caine, Kirkwood, Missouri

FULL SPECTRUM

Submitted by Sister Isabel Clark, V.H.M.
Participant in Audubon Camp in the West

"An excited group of sixth graders each held a cardboard tube with a slit at one end up to the rays of light coming from the sun and shouted with delight as they saw the whole spectrum of light inside of the tube of the spectroscope. In the discussion that followed many were amazed to know that the colors are present but the special grate made the light separate into a visible rainbow. Then as one remarked, the rainbow is really always present even though not visible. It was rather like the line from "The Little Prince". "what is essential is not visible to the eye."

In light of this experience I began thinking in retrospect of my recent time spent at Torey Valley in Wyoming at the Audubon Camp. The analogy of the spectrum could fit although I would not identify any particular color with one aspect of the memory. The setting of the valley was a perfect textbook example of a glacier carved valley that any Earth Science teacher could dream about with its cirque, Pater Noster lakes, striated rocks polished by the moving glacier thousands of years ago and its U shape.

The snow capped peaks visible from my cabin window were still the source of a stream that has meandered through the valley carving out further shapes and carrying the sediment from that upper land to the valley floor where it is ground into small pebbles and sand. The fresh sound of that life giving stream that supports fish and plant life is with me still as I recall a particular day hike along the rushing water where an occasional bird was the only sound that penetrated the water and where the cool breezes brought relief to the body heated by the activity of hiking. The trail lead upwards past white columbines and blue for-get-me-nots, under the clear blue Wyoming sky where we rested on a log across a stream on whose edge was a lush carpet of moss out of which grew one white violet. The beauty of the simple growing plant- and flowers was in absolute contrast to the immensity of the rock and mountain side on which they grew.

This same stream was also the summer home of a buck and doe and their twin fawns, close enough to the cabins to be seen each morning and evening by many of the campers. The animals in Torey Valley have accepted humans into their valley with a genuine graciousness for the Vireo and Wren outside of the cabin sit quite still when campers pass by.

MORE

Whenever we went for instruction in the valley it was always a marvelous experience to look up at the rising walls of the valley with Douglas fir side and sage on the opposite or to the end where the snow capped peaks displayed unusual colors and could formations at various times of the day. Our group of participants became a close knit even though our ages and backgrounds varied - simply because we all had the one constant, this is, the love and appreciation for nature. This added to the delight of the days as we learned from each other by sharing observations as well as information. The bright light in the spectrum was the excellent staff of teachers. Their enthusiasm and professional accumen as well as the constant joy of the course, and the methodology was of excellent caliber enriching for all of us.

The evening sessions of the lectures or slide presentations were occasions for additional learning as well as time for becoming more acquainted with the staff and other participants. After the evening sessions the western sky still offered enough light to go along the stream looking for otter, beaver and other nocturnal animals. The night sounds were an additional nocturnal overture that filled the imagination with marvels of wonder, at all of the life going on at night. The walk back from such outings gave us time to see Jupiter and Saturn and the dazzling display of constellations and hosts of other stars that graced the sky.

Perhaps the sight of the Golden Eagle couple soaring every day above their limestone cliff dwelling and the sight of the Bald Eagle pair and their eaglet standing on the edge of the next along the Snake River, were two shades of color that I like to recall in this spectrum of memory. It was also on this same trip to the Snake River that we saw the Moose and her calves, Elk, Pronghorn Antelope and Osprey as we floated down the river and later drove to the foot of the Grand Tetons for Sunday night supper

How can one put the delight of a spectrum into words? The spectrum of the experience of a land without sound of traffic or airplane, without the drone of a radio or television, a land where one can be in the mountain tops on a trail that whispers only when the wind blows or the bird sings, a land where one can sit on the front proch of a Douglas Fir hand hewn porch and see the alpine glow on the snow-capped mountain top is hardly an unfolding of the total range of color hues within one shade. But the lesson being taught at the Camp was Ecology and as this is a study of living things and how they relate to their environment, it was without a doubt a lesson presented by nature, brought to light by a marvelous faculty, in a very comfortable surrounding provided by man that was a real re-creational time spent in a summer that provided rest for the spirit and food for the mind.

The spectrum is always present in visible light, it takes a defracting grate to separate the colors. Nature is always present to man, but it takes stillness, reflection and informing to learn and appreciate the secrets locked so silently within each species as they relate so dependently upon one another.

MORE

It is with gratitude that I thank the St. Louis Chapter of the Audubon Society for the opportunity afforded me by this scholarship to attend the Camp in the West. Now having been enriched by this experience, I in turn, will endeavor to educate my students to appreciate and take care of their environment so that they might not overlook the hidden spectrum of our dynamic earth.

EARTH'S SONG by Leonard Hall. Published by University of Missouri Press, P.O. Box 7088, Columbia, MO.
Review by Edgar Denison

Len Hall needs no introduction to Missourians, who have any contact with nature whatever. His books and, equally, his newspaper columns, which appeared for 36 years in St. Louis papers, have firmly established him as our protagonist of a land ethic in general as applied to the Ozarks in particular.

Much of the material in the book had its source in the newspaper stories. We learn about Hall's ancestral ties close to Possum Trot Farm in the Arcadia Valley, Hall's home. We take part in the rehabilitation of a run-down farm through wise and "natural" work practices. This is basically pasture farming and the related raising of cattle. We meet the neighbours, the visitors, the riding horses, the pets, often stray cats and dogs, all with their distinct personalities.

But Len Hall is not only a farmer who loves and respects his land, he is equally a naturalist. A naturalist may be defined as a person who through training learns to perceive, observe and study the natural environment. The text abounds in an encyclopedic store of observations on flowers, wildlife, birds, fish, insects, weather and the seasons. This is fine reading for the nature lover. Besides there are up-to-date chapters on conservation, wilderness preservation, natural resources and the inhumane torture caused by steel traps. Many good black and white photographs appear throughout the text. Many chapters are thought-provoking and should be mulled over, especially those dealing with the fast changing agricultural practices and their impact on all of us.

See page 17 for the best recipe of cornbread ever known and the recipe for the old-time favorite of Johnnycake.

CLH - editor's note.



THE AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1982 -- THE ETHICAL SOCIETY, 9001 Clayton Road 8:15 pm

Romance of the West will be personally presented by Allen J. King. In 1804 the Lewis and Clark expedition opened the doors of the American west to mountain men, pioneers, wagon trains and cowboys. These white men penetrated the land of the Sioux, Mandan, Cheyenne and Crow Indians. During their migrations west they found an abundance of new animals -- bison, prairie dogs, pronghorn antelope, bear and eagles. Indian culture revolved around these vast resources and they were a magnet for the settlers. Allen King will trace for you the route of the first western migration from our own City of St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia River on the Pacific Coast.

An estimated 60 million BISON grazed the American plains when the early settlers arrived. A traveler could spend days passing a single herd. Many Indian tribes depended almost entirely on the buffalo for food, shelter and clothing. When the first railroads brought civilization to the West, professional hunters slaughtered great herds for meat and sport. By 1902 only a few hundred bison remained. Today, as a result of strict management, some 10,000 animals roam the plains habitat within state and federal lands. Although a cow bears only one calf each spring, the longevity and hardiness of the species helps to ensure survival.

King is a biologist currently involved in graduate work with sandhill cranes. He views the film, ROMANCE OF THE WEST, as an important educational tool. He is an avid photographer and Michigan State University has awarded him its Conservation Education Award.

The St. Louis Audubon Society made an appeal to have Allen King present this film. We knew it would have a very special appeal to all with an interest in old Saint Louis and the westward journey of the pioneers which started right here at the mouth of the Missouri River. We look forward to seeing you at the film and having you visit with Allen after the showing.



EAGLES 200th. Next year will be the 200th anniversary of the designation of the bald eagle as the national symbol of the United States. A resolution is pending in both houses of Congress, declaring 1982 as the Bicentennial Year of the Bald Eagle and June 20th--the actual anniversary date--as National Bald Eagle Day. Please write your representative and senators and urge them to become co-sponsors of this resolution.

NO ACTION THIS YEAR. The only Clean Air bills pending in Congress--measures to control acid rain and to relax standards for automotive emissions--are bogged down so deeply there is no chance of any substantive changes in the Clean Air Act this year. It will be an election-year issue!



THE MACRO LENS

by Lee F. Mason

A majority of serious photographers prefer the 35mm single-lens reflex cameras. And there are a number of good reasons for that preference: interchangeable lenses -- you view through the lens and see exactly the image the lens "sees" -- you can preview depth of field through the finder to see approximately what's in focus from foreground to background -- most SLR cameras include built-in exposure meters.

Of special value to a photographer interested in nature photography is the single lens reflex camera with a macro, or close-up lens. Unlike a telephoto, which takes distant subjects and enlarges them, a macro lens takes close-up subjects and enlarges them. Most one-lens cameras will record a half-inch subject like a honeybee about the size of a small grain of rice on film. Only about a fiftieth of the frame will be subject, and the rest of the picture area will consist of background, foreground and what is on either side of the subject.

With a 1:1 (one to one) macro lens mounted on an SLR, that half-inch honeybee will be recorded as a half-inch image on the film. Nearly half the frame will be composed of the subject, with little distracting background, foreground or side areas included.

Of course, you do not have to be a nature freak to value a macro lens. It is a great tool for taking close-ups of all sorts of subjects -- coins, stamps, jewelry, anything that catches your eye.

There is an added bonus to a macro lens: it focuses from near the front lens element for extreme close-ups all the way to infinity. You can use a macro lens like a super-normal lens. In addition to extreme close-up work a 50mm macro lens will do everything a normal lens will do.

SO, if you are thinking of buying a new SLR -- buy the camera body and a macro lens instead of the normal lens most salespeople want to sell you. The macro lens will cost a bit more, but you are getting much, much more!

The macro lens you buy will likely be a slower lens than the normal lens that comes with the camera -- meaning it lets in less light at its maximum aperture. That means you will need more available light to take your picture. You get around that with a longer exposure, the use of electronic flash, or using faster film. It really is not much of a problem, but is something to be aware of.

When a macro lens is set at its close-focusing distance, it has very shallow depth-of-field. This means that focusing must be critical if your close-up subject is to be sharp. When you have a subject just a few inches from the lens, it is best to use a tripod and cable release to keep your camera steady as possible.

A macro lens can be your key to a new level of seeing!

WANT TO POLISH YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC SKILLS?

Come join the activities of the Photography Section of the St. Louis Audubon Society. Indoor meetings are the first Tuesday of the months of October through June (no meeting in January), at 7:45 p.m., in the auditorium of the Clayton Federal Savings and Loan Assn., Elm and Lockwood, Webster Groves. YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.



Focus on the

BETTY
WILSON



IRISH WILDERNESS -- DESIGNATION OR EXPLOITATION??

The Missouri Wilderness Coalition, of which the St. Louis Audubon Society is a member, has adopted a position that wilderness designation must precede any consideration of minerals prospecting in the Irish Wilderness. The Coalition, an alliance of 35 organizations, met in Jefferson City on November 21 and the position was adopted by the 40 affiliate representatives.

The position was taken in response to a recently released document from the USDA Forest Service entitled Irish Wilderness Environmental Assessment. The Assessment addresses the issuance of exploratory prospecting permits for hard rock minerals within a 17,500 acre area of the Mark Twain National Forest known as the Irish Wilderness. The area, generally acknowledged as the finest wilderness remnant in Missouri, is located between the Eleven Point and Current Rivers in Oregon County. The Forest Service prepared the Assessment in response to a prospecting application request and has invited comment from the public regarding the proposed alternatives described in the document.

According to the Coalition, none of the alternatives offered in the document are acceptable. Bill Bates, Springfield, chaired the meeting: "The Forest Service claims that their proposal will generate public information and provide an option for the future of the Irish Wilderness when in fact it would do neither," In countering the government proposal, the citizen group has offered its own alternatives. "The Wilderness Act specifically provides for minerals assessment by the Geological Survey," said Bates, "the fairest solution is to designate the wilderness first and then consider the minerals."

Please help in the effort to protect Missouri's most valuable wilderness resource. We all have the right to enjoy the wildlife and natural beauty of the Irish Wilderness. The following ACTION ALERT describes what you can do.

ACTION ALERT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PREPARED OFFERING THE POSSIBILITY OF CORE DRILLING IN THE IRISH WILDERNESS

The US Forest Service, Mark Twain National Forest has issued an Environmental Assessment outlining alternatives whereby permits for exploratory prospecting for hard rock minerals can be issued to private companies to core drill within the Irish Wilderness.

Missouri conservationists have critically reviewed the assessment and have come to the following four basic conclusions;

1. As a result of federal law protecting the minerals information of private mining companies, private core drilling will not necessarily result in additional information being made available to the public for the decisions on the Irish Wilderness.

2. The Forest Service plan automatically preempts wilderness exploitations, if a mining company finds it profitable to apply for a permit. Just because it might be profitable for a company to mine the Irish does not automatically mean it should be mined.

3. Although the Forest Service dismisses the possibility of the federal government conducting the core drilling, such a procedure would immediately make the results of the core drilling public information which could then be part of an open, public deliberation on the relative values of the Irish Wilderness.

4. Designation of the Irish Wilderness as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System would not preclude determination of the mineral resources in the area. In fact the Wilderness Act includes specific provisions for mineral prospecting in wilderness and once determined, both Congress and the public would then be in an excellent position to decide upon future uses of the Irish Wilderness.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO!"

Comments on the assessment are due by January 14, 1982. These should be directed to Leon Cambre, Forest Supervisor, Mark Twain National Forest, Rolla, MO 65401. We should make it clear that we prefer our own alternative:

DESIGNATE THE IRISH WILDERNESS AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM BEFORE ANY CORE DRILLING IS CONSIDERED.

We must act now to preserve Missouri's premier wilderness resource. In writing our letters to the Forest Service please carbon your Congressman. The Hon. _____, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 and Senators Danforth and Eagleton, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 0510.



GLOBAL 2000 CONFERENCE, Friday, February 26, 1982, Chase-Park Plaza Hotel

Paul and Anne Ehrlich, authors, lecturers and biological scientists from Stanford University will be the featured speakers at the Global 2000 Conference.

The Global 2000 Report was published in 1980 by the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Department of State. It predicts conditions which will develop in world population, resources and the environment during the next twenty years.

The Conference is sponsored by a group of concerned organizations including the St. Louis Audubon Society and the Missouri Botanical Garden. The opening session will be at 3:00 p.m., with a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Panelists will include John Karel of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Professors Charles Leven and Alan Templeton of Washington University, and William Carpenter, director Environmental Management, Monsanto Corporation.

Following dinner, Dr. Paul Ehrlich will speak on the subject... "Extinction". Copies of the Global 2000 Summary Report and Global Future: Time to Act are available for purchase at the Coalition for the Environment.

RESERVATION BLANK

Mail to: The Coalition for the Environment, 6267 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO. 63130

Enclosed please find my check payable to "Global 2000 Conference"

DINNER (includes Conference)

for _____ persons @ \$14.00

for _____ table of 8 @ \$112.00

AFTERNOON SESSION only

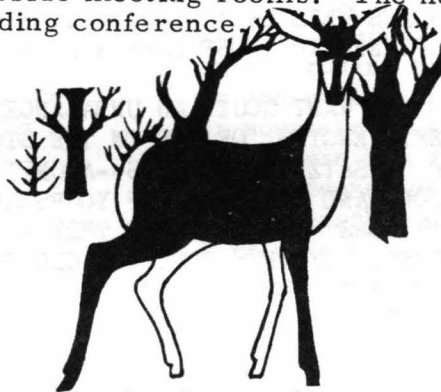
for _____ persons @ \$2.00 (students \$1.00)

Name: _____

Address and telephone Number _____

Reservations must be received by Monday, February 22, 1982.

Tickets will be held at a table outside meeting rooms. The hotel garage will provide parking for \$2.00 for those attending conference.



LAWS OF MAN AND NATURE

Even in the midst of modern technology, its easy to forget simple, scientific facts, such as that air is lighter than water.

Two spotlights found that out, much to their chagrin. Missouri Conservation agent Dick Mitchell got a call about two men spotlighting from a boat.

They had a sophisticated set-up, says Mitchell. It included a scope-mounted double barrel 12-gauge magnum shotgun with a red lens spotlight and a battery mounted on it.

They also had seven raccoons which they threw overboard, trying to dispose of the evidence. But they forgot that coons in a plastic sack full of air float....

Another agent, Clyde Wilson, get down in the mouth thinking about the low regard some people have for animals. But then he remembers a farmer he saw trying to get a snake to move out of the path of his tractor so he could go on without hurting it. Thinking about this gives his day a lift.

published in the River Hills Traveler,
Jackson, Missouri

Junior Audubon News

by Beverly Jean Letchworth

Below is a warning which was published on a map for visitors to Wyoming.

Notice To Bears Beware of Sabotage

WE WANT TO WARN YOU THAT CERTAIN HUMANS IN THIS PARK HAVE BEEN PASSING BISCUITS AND SODA POP TO SOME OF YOUR BROTHERS. KEEP YOUR SELF*RESPECT-AVOID THEM. DON'T BE VICTIMIZED LIKE YOUR UNCLES WERE LAST YEAR. YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE PANHANDLERS, DON'T YOU?

DO YOU WANT GOUT, AN UNBALANCED DIET, VITAMIN DEFICIENCIES, OR GAS ON THE STOMACH? BEWARE OF "ERSATZ" FOODSTUFFS--ACCEPT ONLY NATURAL FOODS AND HUNT THEM UP YOURSELF. THESE VISITORS MEAN WELL BUT THEY WILL IGNORE ALL SIGNS. IF THEY COME TOO CLOSE, READ THIS NOTICE TO THEM. THEY'LL CATCH ON AFTER A WHILE.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR WAS PUBLISHED BY THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES MAGAZINE STATING:

"IN MOST CASES, WILD ANIMALS ARE MORE NUISANCE THAN WORTH."

WITHIN A SHORT TIME AFTER THAT LETTER WAS PRINTED, THE MAGAZINE RECEIVED A REPLY WHICH SAID:

"IN MOST CASES, PEOPLE ARE MORE NUISANCE THAN WORTH."

AND THE LETTER WAS SIGNED WITH THE PAW PRINT OF A DEER MOUSE!



T

A What

E does a whale

B and a nut have in

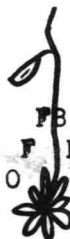
P common? It seems a small

U nut from a common bush of our

desert southwest may change the future of the sperm whale. For years this whale has been hunted for its precious oil until now they are greatly reduced in numbers. But the jojoba nut has recently been discovered which contains an oil very similar to sperm whale oil. This jojoba plant may be able to produce enough oil to make sperm whale hunting uneconomical and may stop the possible extinction of this magnificent sea creature.

! Nowadays more animals than ever work for man. Dolphins deliver and retrieve deep sea objects for the U. S. Navy. In Southern Thailand macaque monkeys help villagers harvest coconuts from the tallest palms. In Boston a capuchin monkey does household chores and even feeds her disabled master. The U. S. Coast Guard is training birds to spot orange, yellow and red--the colors of life jackets, buoys, rafts and flags which will help in rescue operations. In England blood samples are sometimes flown to labs by carrier pigeons. Even the killer whale and sea lion are helping the Navy find torpedoes and test rockets in the sea.

! The first nationwide birdathon was held this year. Twelve hundred birders took part and more than \$85,000 in pledges for each species sighted was made. The winner was David Yee who collected \$2292 from his sponsors for the 131 species he spotted.



PB

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Here are some interesting facts that are fun to know . . .

- * Ostriches weigh as much as 300 pounds and stand 8 feet tall. Their eggs weigh about 3 pounds apiece. And while most birds have 4 toes on each foot, an ostrich has only 2.
- * The wrinkled orange-like fruit balls from the Osage orange tree have seeds so small that it takes more than 12,000 to weigh a pound.
- * In a narrow strip along the Pacific Northwest Coast lives a unique rodent found nowhere else in the world. It is the sewellel or mountain beaver, and he alone represents his family. He looks like a pocket gopher only bigger and has such a short tail it can barely be seen.
- * Mice often use bird nests for homes in the winter. If you find a nest, carefully spread it apart. You may find several mice huddled inside.
- * Pileated woodpecker holes are always straight-sided.
- * Sometimes on warm winter days you may see hundreds of black dots moving about on the snow. These are the springtails, very active winter insects.

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Below is a list of common words. Add one or more letters to the end of each word to make the name of an animal or bird. For example: ANT would become ANTEATER by adding five more letters.

1. NIGHT
2. SHE
3. TAP
4. OVEN
5. JACK
6. ROAD
7. WOOD
8. BAD

Suggested answers:
 1. night hawk, nightingale
 2. sheep 3. tapir 4. ovenbird
 5. jackal, jackdaw 6. roadrunner
 7. woodchuck, woodpecker 8. badger

Saint Louis Audubon Society
2109 Briargate Lane
St. Louis, MO. 63122

CONNIE HATH, EDITOR

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A Statement
of
Audubon
Philosophy

¶ Audubon chapters
are the ecological
conscience of their
communities.

¶ We realize that all
forms of life are
interdependent and that
the diversity of nature
is essential to our
well-being.

¶ We are committed to
protecting wildlife and
the life-support systems,
the air, land and water
on which we all depend.

¶ We recognize that
the environmental
choices we make today
will affect future
generations and that we
must choose accordingly.

¶ We believe that
every generation should
be able to experience
spiritual and physical
refreshment in places
where nature is
undisturbed.

¶ We seek to be a voice
of reason in our crusade
for a healthy, bountiful
Earth.

¶ And we dedicate
ourselves to opening the
eyes of young and old to
the wonder, beauty, and
variety of nature.

Russell W. Peterson,
President National
Audubon Society

APPLICATION for JOINT MEMBERSHIP

Please check the membership you desire:

Individual _____ \$25.00
Family _____ \$32.00
Sustaining _____ \$50.00

Supporting _____ \$100.00
Sr. Citizen _____ \$ 17.00
Sr. Citizen
Family _____ \$ 19.00

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

CHAPTER: ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY, #2602

Please indicate New Membership _____ Renewal payment _____

Make checks payable to National Audubon and mail to:

St. Louis Audubon Society, 2109 Briargate Lane, St. Louis, Missouri 63122